IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical information medium ~~(20)~~ for recording by means of a focused radiation beam ~~(10)~~ having a radiation wavelength • and a numerical aperture NA, said medium ~~(20)~~ having a substrate ~~(1)~~, a stack ~~(2)~~ of layers provided thereon, the stack ~~(2)~~ comprising at least a first recording stack ~~(3)~~ and k radiation beam transmissive layers, ~~(4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)~~ each radiation beam transmissive layer ~~(4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)~~ having a refractive index n_i and an average thickness d_i •m and $1 \bullet i \bullet k$ and $k \bullet 2$, characterized in that the average thickness d_k of transmissive layer k satisfies the equation

$$d_k = D(n_k)\left[1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1}\frac{d_i}{D(n_i)}\right] \pm 0.01 D(n_k) \bullet m, \quad \text{in which} \quad \sum_{i=1}^{k-1}\frac{d_i}{D(n_i)} < 1$$

and D(n) represents the thickness versus refractive index function in •m, of a single layer radiation beam transmissive layer causing minimal spherical wavefront aberration in the focal point of the focused radiation beam ~~(10)~~, said focal point being at the recording layer of the first recording stack ~~(3)~~.

2.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An~~ The optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 1,

characterized in that the refractive index n_i of each of the radiation beam transmissive layers ~~(4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)~~ satisfies

$$1.45 \bullet n_i \bullet 1.70.$$

3.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An~~ The optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

$$D(1.60) = 100 \bullet m.$$

4.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An~~ The optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 3,

characterized in that

$D(n)$ is represented by consecutive connection, with substantially linear line parts, of coordinates $(n, D(n))$ with the values

(1.45, 98.5), (1.50, 98.6), (1.55, 99.2), (1.60, 100), (1.65, 101.1) and (1.70, 102.4).

5.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An~~ The optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

$$D(1.60) = 300 \bullet m.$$

6.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An~~ The optical information medium ~~(20)~~
as claimed in Claim 5,

characterized in that

       D(n) is represented by consecutive connection, with

5   substantially linear line parts, of coordinates (n, D(n)) with the

values

(1.45, 303.8), (1.50, 301.0), (1.55, 299.9), (1.60, 300), (1.65,

301.1) and (1.70, 303.0).

7.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An~~ The optical information medium ~~(20)~~
as claimed in ~~any of Claims 1   6~~ Claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

$$d_k = D(n_k) \left[1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{d_i}{D(n_i)} \right] \pm 0.001 D(n_k) \cdot \text{m}.$$

8.   (Currently Amended)   A method of manufacturing an optical

information medium ~~(20)~~ for recording by means of a focused

radiation beam ~~(10)~~ having a radiation wavelength • and a numerical

aperture NA, said method comprising the steps of:

5   providing a substrate ~~(1)~~; and

       depositing a stack ~~(2)~~ of layers thereon, the stack ~~(2)~~

comprising at least one recording stack ~~(3)~~ and k radiation beam

transmissive layers ~~(4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)~~, each radiation beam

transmissive layer having a refractive index n_i and average

10   thickness d_i •m and 1 • i • k and k • 2,

characterized in that

        ~the step of depositing the kth layer is carried out with
an average thickness d_k which is determined by the formula

$$d_k = D(n_k)\left[1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1}\frac{d_i}{D(n_i)}\right] \pm 0.01 D(n_k) \cdot m, \text{ in which } \sum_{i=1}^{k-1}\frac{d_i}{D(n_i)} < 1 \text{ and}$$

15 D(n) represents the thickness versus refractive index function in
    •m, of a single layer radiation beam transmissive layer causing
    minimal spherical wavefront aberration in the focal point of the
    focused radiation beam~~(10)~~, said focal point being at the
    recording layer of the first recording stack~~(3)~~.

    9.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method of manufacturing an
    optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 8,
    characterized in that the refractive index n_i of each of the
    radiation beam transmissive layers ~~(4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)~~
 5 satisfies
        1.45 • n_i • 1.70.

    10.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method of manufacturing an
    optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 8 or 9,
    characterized in that
        D(1.60) = 100 •m.

    11.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method of manufacturing an
    optical information medium ~~(20)~~ as claimed in Claim 10,

characterized in that

D(n) is represented by consecutive connection with

5   substantially linear line parts of coordinates (n, D(n)) with the

values

(1.45, 98.5), (1.50, 98.6), (1.55, 99.2), (1.60, 100), (1.65,

101.1) and (1.70, 102.4).

12.   (Currently Amended)   A The method of manufacturing an

optical information medium (20) as claimed in Claim 8 or 9,

characterized in that

D(1.60) = 300 •m.

13.   (Currently Amended)   A The method of manufacturing an

optical information medium (20) as claimed in Claim 12,

characterized in that

D(n) is represented by consecutive connection with

5   substantially linear line parts of coordinates (n, D(n)) with the

values

(1.45, 98.5), (1.50, 98.6), (1.55, 99.2), (1.60, 100), (1.65,

101.1) and (1.70, 102.4).